

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
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P 311310Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0355

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 8814

EXDIS

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, US, IS

SUBJECT: MILITARY RESUPPLY

REF: A) STATE 212642, B) TEL AVIV 8688 C) TEL AVIV 8725

1. MY DATT YESTERDAY ACCOMPANIED USAF MG CASEY, CHIEF OF TEAM DESCRIBED IN REF A, TO MEETING WITH GEN (RET) ZVI ZUR, ASSISTANT TO MINDEF. PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR TEAM VISIT. ATMOSPHERE OF MEETING AND LUNCHEON WHICH FOLLOWED WAS AMICABLE AND COOPERATIVE AND TEAM IS WELL LAUNCHED ON ITS MISSION.

2. MEETING BEGAN ON VERY INTERESTING NOTE. ZUR'S FIRST QUESTION TO GEN CASEY CONCERNED DURATION OF CURRENT AIRLIFT. BEFORE CASEY COULD RESPOND, ZUR MADE STRONG PITCH THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL AIRLIFT CONTINUE UNTIL FIRST SHIP CARRYING ARMS RESUPPLIES FROM U.S. WAS PHYSICALLY PRESENT IN HAIFA. HE STRESSED THIS WAS A POLITICAL RATHER THAN A PRACTICAL CONSIDERATION.

3. GEN CASEY REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN OUT OF TOUCH FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS BUT THAT HIS LATEST INFO WAS THAT AIRLIFT WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL 4 OR 5 NOVEMBER. ZUR EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT FIRST VESSEL DEDICATED TO RESUPPLY WOULD NOT BE IN PORT BY THEN. HE REITERATED THAT WHEN AIRLIFT TERMINATES IT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL PRIMIN BE ABLE TO POINT TO VISIBLE SEALIFT AND THUS DENY HER OPPOSITION ANY ROOM FOR CRITICISM.

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4. COMMENT: IT IS EVIDENT THAT ISRAELI CONCERN OVER CONTINUOUS PROOF OF U.S. RESUPPLY (RPTD IN REF B) REMAINS INTENSE. I THINK MRS MEIR'S VISIT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE TIME TO PASS TO GOI WHATEVER HARD INFO WE HAVE ON AIRLIFT TERMINATION AND

EXPECTED ARRIVAL TIMES SEALIFT VESSELS - PARTICULARLY U.S.
BOTTOMS.
KEATING

SECRET

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